

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for transmitting a data packet from a mobile node in a mobile ad-hoc communications network, said data packet being addressed to a destination node in said network, the method comprising:

transmitting a request to send message from said mobile node directed to a plurality of relay nodes in said network;

receiving by said mobile node a respective clear to send message from at least one of said plurality of relay nodes;

transmitting said data packet from said mobile node to said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes; [[and]]

~~transmitting~~ forwarding said data packet from each of said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes to said destination node via a set of available routes in said network;

receiving at least one realization of said data packet at said destination node via at least one of said available routes; and

processing said received at least one realization of said destination node to minimize a likelihood of packet error.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [[2]], wherein:

when said destination node receives [[said]] a plurality of realizations of said data packet~~[[s]]~~ in a Rake window, said destination node combines said plurality of realizations of said data packet; and

when said destination node receives [[said]] a plurality of realizations of said data packet~~[[s]]~~ outside of said Rake window, said destination node buffers said plurality of realizations of said data packet~~[[s]]~~ in a delay jitter buffer and selects one of said plurality of realizations of said data packet~~[[s]]~~ meeting a certain criteria.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said data packet transmitting ~~narrowcasts~~ multicasts said data packet to said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said request to send message and said clear to send messages each include unicast addressing information representing [[an]] said set of available ~~number of~~ routes in said network via which to route said data packet to said destination node, each of said available routes including at least one of said plurality of relay nodes.

9. (currently amended) A method for communicating a data packet addressed to a destination node from a plurality of relay nodes in a mobile ad-hoc communications network to said destination node in said network, the method comprising:

transmitting a request to send message from each of said plurality of relay nodes in said network to said destination node;

transmitting a clear to send message from said destination node to at least one of said plurality of relay nodes; and

transmitting said data packet from said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes in said network to said destination node via a set of available routes in said network;

receiving at least one realization of said data packet at said destination node via at least one of said available routes; and

processing said received at least one realization of said destination node to minimize a likelihood of packet error.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A mobile node in a mobile ad-hoc communications network, adapted to transmit a data packet being addressed to a destination node in said network, said mobile node comprising:

a transmitter, ~~adapted to~~ for transmitting a request to send message from said mobile node directed to a plurality of relay nodes in said network; and

a controller, ~~adapted to receive~~ for receiving a respective clear to send message from at least one of said plurality of relay nodes, and further ~~adapted to~~ for controlling said transmitter to transmit said data packet to said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes in said network in response to receiving said respective clear to send message,

wherein said request to send message and said clear to send messages each includes unicast addressing information representing a set of available routes in said network via which to

route said data packet to said destination node, each of said available routes including at least one of said plurality of relay nodes.

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A mobile node as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
said transmitter multicasts ~~narrowcasts~~ said data packet to said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A mobile ad-hoc communications network, comprising:
a mobile node; and
a plurality of relay nodes, being within broadcast distance of said mobile node;
said plurality of relay nodes ~~being adapted to~~ comprising means for transmitting a request to send message to said mobile node in said network;
said mobile node ~~being adapted to~~ comprising means for transmitting a clear to send message to at least one of said plurality of relay nodes acknowledging ~~[[when]]~~ said mobile node ~~is capable of~~ will receive ~~receiving~~ a data packet from said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes,

wherein said request to send messages and said clear to send message each includes unicast addressing information representing a set of available routes in said network via which to route said data packet to said destination node, each of said available routes including at least one of said plurality of relay nodes; and

each of said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes ~~being adapted to~~ comprising means for transmitting said data packet to said mobile node upon receiving a respective said clear to send message from said mobile node via said available routes.

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A mobile ad-hoc communications network as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes transmits said data packet to said mobile node after every one of said at least one of said plurality of relay nodes has received a respective said clear to send message from said mobile node.

20. (previously presented) A mobile ad-hoc communications network as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

at least one of said plurality of relay nodes is mobile.